

Reporting and Withholding on Payments to Foreign Persons

A Technical Overview



Main Types of Chapter 3 Withholding

IRC § 1441 – Withholding of Tax on NRA

IRC § 1442 – Withholding of Tax on Foreign Corporations

IRC § 1445 – Withholding of Tax on Disposition of USRPI

IRC § 1446 – Withholding of Tax on ECI Allocable to Foreign Partners





Withholding of Tax on NRAs and Foreign Corps - 1441/1442

Income Must Be:



Fixed or determinable, annual or periodic (FDAP)

Generally not effectively connected with a US trade or business





Sourcing Rules



Personal services

Where performed

Dividends

U.S. / For. Corp.

Interest

Residence/payer

Rents

Location of prop.

Foreign Persons

Nonresident Alien Individual

Foreign corporation, Foreign Partnership



Foreign Trusts & Foreign Estates

Any other person that is not a U.S. person



Withholding Agent

Withholding Agent - control, receipt, custody, disposal, or payment of any item of income to a foreign person.

May be individual, corporation, partnership, trust, association, or any other entity.



Required Documentation

W-8BEN- Beneficial Owner status and treaty





W-8EXP- Beneficial Owner status and withholding exemption

Form W-8IMY – Non Beneficial Owner Status

Withholding Rates and Reporting Requirements 1441/1442

Withholding rate of 30% is generally required on Gross Income.

Reduced treaty rate, including exemption from tax may apply.

File withholding tax return Forms 1042 and 1042-S.



Withholding on Disposition of USRPI by Foreign Persons – IRC § 1445

10% withholding on the amount realized

10% withholding may be reduced

Withholding must be submitted to the IRS by the 20th day of the date of transfer

Foreign seller/transferor must file Form 1040NR or 1120F



US Real Property Holding Corporations

FMV of its USRPI is at least 50% of its USRPI plus FRPI plus Bus Assets.

If corporation is a USRPHC, any interest in that corporation is a USRPI

If USRPHC disposes of USRPI in private corporation FIRPTA applies to foreign SHs

With publicly traded corporation, FIRPTA applies to any 5% or greater shareholder.



Partnership Withholding – IRC § 1446

If a partnership has ECI, and

Any portion of that ECI is allocable to a foreign partner,

That partnership is subject to a withholding tax at the highest rate for that foreign partner

Where to Get More Information

IRC §§ 1441/1442, 1445, 1446, related Treas. Regs, Publications 515, 519 & 901

http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/index.html

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